



Anagnostopoulos Gets 2nd Highest Award For Valor

BONG SON, RVN (173d Abn Bn) - A senior medic of the 173d Airborne Brigade from Okauchee was recently presented the nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross. He is SP5 James Anagnostopoulos, a senior medic with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry, Creighton W. Abrams, commander of the U. S. Forces in Vietnam presented the award in ceremonies at LZ English recently.

His company, on a search and destroy mission southwest of Kontum City, 30 miles north of Pleiku, was attacked by an NVA company using automatic weapons, grenades and B-40 rockets. In the ensuing battle, Anagnostopoulos saved the lives of six men, destroyed an NVA machine gun position and organized the helicopter evacuation of the wounded.

"I was in the point element and we had just walked into a clearing when one of the men sprained his ankle," remarked the medic. "We stopped and I was going to call in a helicopter to evacuate him when they cut loose on us."

Under heavy fire, the senior medic ran across 150 meters of open terrain to treat his wounded troopers. After pulling an injured platoon leader to cover and aiding him, he moved forward to three casualties who

were within ten meters of an enemy machine gun.

"The rounds were hitting all around me like a bad dream."

As he worked on the three casualties the NVA machine gunner raised up and began firing in his direction. He fired at the position with his pistol, killing the enemy gunner.

He completed giving aid to the three men and also treated two new casualties amid hostile fire and grenade bombardments. He then organized the helicopter evacuation of his patients to a safe landing zone, personally carrying three of the wounded through enemy fire.

When the fighting erupted the second time, the young medic rushed across 100 meters of open ground and aided in the rescue of five more paratroopers.

"It was a busy day, but it could have been worse," he explained. "If we hadn't stopped to care for the man's sprained ankle, we would have walked right into the NVA base camp."

His dauntless courage was an inspiration to all those at the battle scene and spurred them on to administer a crushing defeat on the enemy. Pvt. Anagnostopoulos' devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



PFC JAMES ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, Okauchee, is being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (shown in the picture), the second highest U.S. award for valor, for saving the lives of six men in Vietnam. The medal winner is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Spiros Anagnostopoulos, 803 Elm Avenue, Okauchee. He was a medic with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. - Enterprise photo.



Sp-5 Anagnostopoulos receiving Distinguished Service Cross from Major General Creighton Abrams, Commander MACV, Vietnam

PFC James Anagnostopoulos
United States Army